UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.182/SR.57
30 March 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

1981 session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 57th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 13 March 1981, at 6 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. GONZALEZ GALVEZ (Mexico)

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Adoption of the report (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 8.10 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (continued) (A/AC.182/L.26 and Add.1 and 2, L.27 and Add.1 and 2, L.28 and L.29)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, following consultations with the regional groups, he wished to announce that agreement had been reached on certain changes in various documents before the Committee and on ways of dealing with proposals before the Committee.

2. The first change applied to paragraph 19 of document A/AC.182/L.26. After the existing paragraph 19 a new paragraph would be added, reading: "In this regard, the General Assembly should consider the establishment of a working group at the beginning of its thirty-sixth session with a view to finalizing the draft Manila declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes." He also announced that one delegation had indicated that, while it could support the establishment of such a working group under the General Assembly, it did so only on the understanding that, if agreement was not reached on the draft declaration, the declaration would be sent back to the Special Committee for consideration.

3. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that the additional sentence appeared to have very little content, in that a working group had already been established but the declaration had not been completed.

4. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) pointed out that the additional sentence made it possible to eliminate document A/AC.182/L.28.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that numerous changes had been made in document A/AC.182/L.26/Add.1. The underlined heading immediately before paragraph 1 should read "Continuation of the elaboration of the draft Manila declaration on peaceful settlement of disputes". The second change applied to paragraph 1 itself, and consisted of replacing the words "reached within the Committee in the" in the first line by the word "of", the replacement of the words "as a result of the work of" in the second and third lines by the word "in", and the replacement of the word "of", immediately before the words "informal consultations", by the word "in". The third change was to delete the heading in the margin immediately before paragraph 2 and combine the existing paragraph 2 with paragraph 1. The fourth change was to delete the words "in the course of the session" in the first line of paragraph 2, delete the words "the reaching of" in the last sentence of the paragraph and replace the words "entire text of the declaration" by the words "contents of each part of the draft as well as on the entire text of the declaration" at the end of the paragraph.

6. The last two changes applied to page 5 of the document. In the section following the heading "Preamble and section III", paragraph 3 would be amended by replacing the last sentence by the following: "They submitted the following text which was not considered for lack of time." Finally, the Rapporteur's draft on

(The Chairman)

the peaceful settlement of disputes (A/AC.182/L.26/Add.2) should be inserted after paragraph 3.

7. Mr. MARDAN (Iraq) said that agreement had also been reached on a change in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution on pages 5 and 6 of document A/AC.182/L.26/Add.1. The word "aggression" in the fourth line of that paragraph should be replaced by the word "coercion". The same change applied to the analogous paragraph in the draft resolution in paragraph 2 of document A/AC.182/L.27/Add.1.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, in connexion with document A/AC.182/L.27, it had been agreed that the following introductory paragraph should be added to the statement made by the Rapporteur: "At the [ ] meeting of the Working Group, on 13 March, the Chairman introduced the document reproduced below. This document reflected the opinion of the Chairman on the progress by the Committee during the session and did not imply any commitment on the part of any delegation. In introducing this text it was the hope of the Chairman to help provide the Committee with a basis for future work. Proposals 46 to 74 were not covered, as a discussion on them could not be completed for lack of time."

9. In the report the title "Document prepared by the Chairman after consultations" would be followed by the chapter on the maintenance of international peace and security contained in document A/AC.182/L.27. However, the proposals relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes would be omitted since they had already been incorporated in the report.

10. In section III of document A/AC.182/L.27/Add.2, on rationalization of existing procedures of the United Nations, it had been agreed to delete the words "A recommendation that" from the paragraph headed "Possible basis for future work". The paragraph would end with the following words: "... with a view to the possibility for further consideration, taking into account the relevant decisions made by the General Assembly at its last session."

11. Lastly, it had been proposed, in connexion with the draft recommendation circulated as document A/AC.182/L.29, that the following paragraph should be added to the Rapporteur's statement on the subject: "At the [ ] meeting of the Working Group, on 13 March, the following draft recommendation was proposed as a basis for future work on a priority basis in the Special Committee by the delegations of ..." The text would then continue in accordance with the wording of the title of document A/AC.182/L.29. The relevant section of the report would conclude with the words: "Owing to lack of time it was not possible to consider this proposal".

12. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said, in connexion with the paragraph just mentioned, that, after further consultations between the sponsors of the draft recommendation contained in A/AC.182/L.29, it had been agreed that the wording should be: "draft recommendation proposed by non-aligned countries of the Special Committee ..." That decision had been taken in the light of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly which did not stipulate that the countries sponsoring such a recommendation should be named.

13. Mr. ECONOMIDES (Greece) asked if the representative of Egypt would object to the inclusion of a foot-note listing the non-aligned countries represented in the Special Committee.

14. Mr. ANDERSON (United Kingdom) said that it was a matter of importance to know which delegations were sponsoring the draft recommendation.

15. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that the words "by non-aligned countries of the Special Committee" had presumably been carefully chosen, and he noted that no member of the non-aligned movement in the Committee had taken exception to them. He did not think the phrase need be a matter of contention.

16. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) said that the recommendations contained in document A/AC.182/L.29 were of fundamental significance for the content of chapter VII of the report, and it was therefore not unreasonable to expect that the proponents of such recommendations should specify which States were sponsoring them. If those delegations belonging to the non-aligned movement which were present at the meeting were to indicate their approval of the recommendations he would have no objection to the subsequent addition of other sponsors early in the following week.

17. Mr. MUSEUX (France) said that his delegation had participated in the negotiations which had resulted in the draft recommendation, and that the question of sponsorship had been specifically raised. It was therefore surprising that the Special Committee was not to be informed which countries were in fact the sponsors of the draft recommendation. Accordingly, he considered that the suggestion made by the representative of the United States was entirely appropriate. It was obviously unhelpful to indicate that the draft recommendation emanated from unspecified "non-aligned countries".

18. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that the proper subject of discussion was surely whether the proposal submitted by a number of countries should appear in the report, and if so, in what form that proposal would be presented.

19. Miss OLIVEROS (Argentina) said that she was surprised that certain delegations seemed to wish to impede other delegations in the exercise of their right to submit proposals agreed upon in informal negotiations. It should be pointed out that all decisions at meetings of the non-aligned group were taken by consensus. As the representative of Greece had suggested, it would not be inappropriate to include a foot-note in the report indicating the non-aligned membership of the Special Committee.

20. Mr. ŠILOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the members of the non-aligned movement constituted a well-defined group within the United Nations and that there was therefore no need to be more specific in the report.

21. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) said that his delegation had no desire to interfere in the affairs of the non-aligned movement. It was, however, important to know which delegations were taking responsibility for the draft recommendation in document A/AC.182/L.29. He could not see why any problem should arise from naming the States concerned: if there was in fact a problem, time should be allowed for further consultations.

22. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that a proposal had been submitted and several delegations of the non-aligned group had already spoken in favour of it. He could see no reason why the Committee should not proceed to a discussion on the substance of the recommendation rather than dwell on the question of which delegations were sponsoring it.

23. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that, under the arrangements made with the Planning and Meetings Servicing Section, conference services, including interpretation, had been made available to the Committee only until 9 p.m. In addition he had been informed that no meeting held on Saturday could extend beyond 1 p.m. He therefore adjourned the meeting on the understanding that the Committee would resume its discussion the following day at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 9.10 p.m.